

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
+ + + + +  
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Temporary License Application  
Event: National Cherry Blossom Festival      Fact-  
Date of Event: April 4, 2015      Finding  
Applicant: Lillian Iversen      Hearing  
Neighborhood: 650 Water Street, SW  
Size of Event: 25,000 Attendees

March 25, 2015

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson Ruthanne Miller, presiding.

PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson  
NICK ALBERTI, Member  
DONALD BROOKS, Member  
MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member  
HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member  
JAMES SHORT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

JOHN SUERO, ABRA Investigator

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 9:59 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. We have  
4 another Fact-Finding Hearing regarding National  
5 Cherry Blossom Festival. Its date of event is  
6 April 4, 2015 and the applicant is Lillian  
7 Iversen. And the neighborhood for that event is  
8 650 Water Street, S.W., and the size is estimated  
9 to be 25,000. Good morning.

10 MS. STALEY: Good morning.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So if you can  
12 start with identifying yourselves for the record?

13 MS. STALEY: Sure. Elissa Staley and  
14 I am Program Manager with the National Cherry  
15 Blossom Festival and I am the event lead on the  
16 Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival.

17 MS. IVERSEN: I am Lillian Iversen the  
18 Director of Programming for the National Cherry  
19 Blossom Festival and with me the supervisor of  
20 the area within which the beer garden takes  
21 place.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So I think

1 that like the previous applicant you have been  
2 doing this for several years. Am I not mistaken?

3 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

4 MS. STALEY: This event has taken  
5 place in that community for, I think, probably  
6 about 12 years.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

8 MS. STALEY: Over the last few years,  
9 we have had some production changes in terms of  
10 the various entities that are taking  
11 responsibility and so the National Cherry Blossom  
12 Festival, this is just our second year in terms  
13 of permitting the ABRA license. So it's our  
14 second go-around with that.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

16 MS. STALEY: We are still working with  
17 many of the community entities that have been  
18 involved over the years.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It's hard to  
20 compete with a 55-year history. I mean, I still  
21 remember your fireworks and they are beautiful.

22 Okay. So this is your second year in

1 the ABRA process.

2 MS. STALEY: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are you here for  
4 the Cherry Blossom Case?

5 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, come on  
7 forward and introduce yourself for the record.

8 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Good morning.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you could put  
10 your name on the record?

11 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Investigator John  
12 Suero, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation  
13 Administration.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Great. Thank  
15 you. So we are doing the second Cherry Blossom  
16 Festival, the one on Water Street, S.W. We just  
17 started. And they have indicated this is their  
18 second year doing it, the ABRA process. You have  
19 done it with other agencies previously.

20 MS. STALEY: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So for the  
22 things that we are looking for, this is only the

1 second year.

2 MS. STALEY: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And it's the same  
4 people who were in charge last year or is there a  
5 change in people as well?

6 MS. STALEY: So I was the event lead  
7 last year as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

9 MS. STALEY: And I was actually the  
10 one that held the ABRA permit.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Great.

12 MS. STALEY: But we just kind of  
13 transitioned that just because I have many  
14 responsibilities in kind of structuring the event  
15 and we thought that it would make more sense to  
16 have a dedicated staff person in a different way.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. But you  
18 are obviously still involved.

19 MS. STALEY: Yes, absolutely.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Is it  
21 different this year? Have you made changes since  
22 last year?

1 MS. STALEY: Yes. The major change,  
2 obviously, there is a lot of construction in that  
3 neighborhood, so we have essentially kind of  
4 shifted the whole event site down the waterfront.  
5 Where we used to have the beer garden is now a  
6 big construction project.

7 So instead, we are going on the other  
8 side of the former channel-in space, which is at  
9 650 Water Street. There is a surface parking lot  
10 and an adjacent park that we kind of reference as  
11 6th Street Park. So that will be the area that  
12 will be where we are allowing alcoholic beverages  
13 to be served. There are a number of existing  
14 fencing in the area and barriers and then we will  
15 add additional bike racks to secure that area.

16 In terms of the rest of the event, in  
17 terms of how it is shifted, we are making the use  
18 of the Gangplank Marina parking lot, which is  
19 adjacent to that, for kind of a food truck area.  
20 And then there is going to also be a stage on the  
21 water close to that area. I did neglect to  
22 mention that within our beer garden area, we will

1 have a stage as well.

2 And then continuing to move down Water  
3 Street, S.W., we are actually going to go into  
4 Park Service territory as well with a family  
5 activity area. So as I said before, that site  
6 has just shifted down the waterfront and then the  
7 beer garden is still at the top of the site.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is the beer  
9 garden the same size as last year or has it  
10 changed?

11 MS. STALEY: It's a little bit  
12 smaller.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Is that  
14 because of your shift in the property?

15 MS. STALEY: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You just have  
17 less property to use. Okay. Do you know how  
18 many people you had in the beer garden last year?  
19 Do you know?

20 MS. STALEY: The whole area where we  
21 allowed alcohol included a stage as well as an  
22 art market last year, plus the beer service area,

1 so it was much, much larger --

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

3 MS. STALEY: -- than what we are doing  
4 in this space. I would say maybe at any given  
5 time 1,500 to 2,000 people throughout that whole  
6 space.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

8 MS. STALEY: But within the beer  
9 service area, it was certainly, you know, much  
10 less than that.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And this year?

12 MS. STALEY: This year we are thinking  
13 approximately about 1,000 people in the entire  
14 space. And that's a very comfortable number. So  
15 we think, you know, we could increase from there.  
16 Of course, we will be monitoring crowd levels to  
17 make sure that, you know, we are not kind of  
18 exceeding capacity in terms of what we feel  
19 comfortable with.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how are you  
21 going to monitor?

22 MS. STALEY: We will have security

1 guards at the entrances along with volunteers,  
2 one to two depending on staffing. In addition,  
3 we will have roaming guards within the beer  
4 garden. Of course, then there is Lillian Iversen  
5 that will be circulating as beer garden manager  
6 in addition to, you know, other folks that will  
7 be going through and then allocating an MPD  
8 officer to the area as well.

9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: There is going to  
10 be one MPD officer?

11 MS. STALEY: We are still working with  
12 MPD --

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

14 MS. STALEY: -- in terms of reviewing  
15 the plan. We had a preliminary meeting many  
16 months ago, but want to, you know, meet now that  
17 we are closer to the event to shore up the plans.  
18 But our recommendation is to have someone  
19 stationed within the beer garden.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And how  
21 many security are you going to have?

22 MS. STALEY: Within the beer garden

1 area, approximately, 11.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

3 MS. STALEY: And that's to account for  
4 all the entrances and exits and then people  
5 roving in addition.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And how many do  
7 you have at each entrance and the exit?

8 MS. STALEY: At the entrances at least  
9 one security guard paired with one to two  
10 volunteers.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

12 MS. STALEY: There are some entrances  
13 where we will staff up a little bit in terms of  
14 if you are looking at the Cherry Blossom Plaza  
15 Diagram, that stairwell that is closest to the  
16 bottom of the map, we are intending to put at  
17 least one at the top of the stairs and one at the  
18 bottom of the stairs.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you have any  
20 problems last year?

21 MS. STALEY: No.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay. I'm

1 going to let other Board Members ask questions if  
2 you all have any. Yes, Mr. Short?

3 MEMBER SHORT: Good morning, ladies.

4 MS. STALEY: Good morning.

5 MEMBER SHORT: I'm kind of puzzled.  
6 You say you are working out something with MPD,  
7 but you haven't got anything, a commitment from  
8 them as of yet. Is that correct?

9 MS. STALEY: Yeah, we have not met to  
10 completely show our plans. We are, you know,  
11 meeting with them any day now. But last year, it  
12 was a minimum of five to six officers they  
13 allocated for the event, so we are planning on  
14 the same.

15 MEMBER SHORT: And how many people do  
16 you think in total you will have?

17 MS. STALEY: Throughout the entire  
18 event site on a really, really warm beautiful  
19 day, we expect 25,000 to come through the event.

20 MEMBER SHORT: And how many security  
21 employees?

22 MS. STALEY: Maximum -- well, minimum

1 security we are thinking private security guards  
2 minimum would be 15. I think it is we are up in  
3 those numbers, as what we are planning on right  
4 now. Then we will have Park Police that will  
5 have an additional five to six officers, plus an  
6 additional minimum of five to six from MPD.

7 MEMBER SHORT: I was just in that area  
8 yesterday to take in some business leads, there  
9 is going to be some challenges.

10 MS. STALEY: Yes.

11 MEMBER SHORT: With the construction.  
12 Perhaps you are going to need a lot of police  
13 officers.

14 MS. STALEY: Yes, yes.

15 MEMBER SHORT: It would be helpful if  
16 you would decide on any private security you're  
17 going to have.

18 MS. STALEY: Absolutely. That's why  
19 we wanted to meet with them to really drill down  
20 on the plans more specifically.

21 MEMBER SHORT: When do you think you  
22 will have any information, so the Board can feel

1 comfortable if you are going along with your  
2 event?

3 MS. STALEY: Well --

4 MEMBER SHORT: Again, this is a  
5 premier time for Washington and our tourists and  
6 we want to make sure that with the construction  
7 and all of the other challenges together, that  
8 things go smoothly.

9 MS. STALEY: Absolutely. I mean, we  
10 have already had some preliminary meetings with  
11 Harbor Patrol, because we are planning on doing a  
12 temporary closure of our Water Street Circle to  
13 help the event.

14 MEMBER SHORT: You're going to have to  
15 close that down.

16 MS. STALEY: Yes, exactly. But you  
17 know, we are still planning on the minimum number  
18 that they have suggested in the past. Nothing  
19 from that plan has changed. The only thing that  
20 would change would be to increase officers and I  
21 don't feel that I'm qualified to allocate, you  
22 know, MPD specifically, which is why --

1           MEMBER SHORT: Are you going to ask  
2 the fireboat to do anything with the Water Street  
3 there? The alcohol?

4           MS. STALEY: Pardon?

5           MEMBER SHORT: Fireboat, I guess you  
6 might want to talk to the fireboat, D.C. Fire  
7 Department's fireboat.

8           MS. STALEY: Yes, yes, we are in close  
9 contact with Harbor Patrol down there in terms  
10 of, you know, maneuvering everything with the  
11 boats.

12           MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Well, the only  
13 thing that I would have to say is I love these  
14 events to be very successful, because then  
15 Washington is successful. But I would like to  
16 see a commitment from MPD as to the officers and  
17 I just want to help you out with the function and  
18 I know we \*(10:09:56). It's going to be  
19 impossible, right?

20           MS. IVERSEN: I mean, we are  
21 definitely dissuading people to drive down to the  
22 site.

1 MS. STALEY: Right.

2 MS. IVERSEN: And utilize our public  
3 transportation options. Whether they listen,  
4 that's entire of their own.

5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6 MS. IVERSEN: But we're trying to  
7 minimize the behavior of --

8 MEMBER SHORT: So that's why you're  
9 going to need to keep the traffic moving, because  
10 some people \*(10:10:12), you know that.

11 MS. STALEY: Yes.

12 MS. IVERSEN: Exactly.

13 MS. STALEY: And an additional change  
14 that we are planning on as well is to tell  
15 pedestrians to use 4th Street as an access point,  
16 because they can go down 4th Street and walk over  
17 the Titanic Memorial.

18 In the past, most people have been  
19 going down --

20 MEMBER SHORT: So are you having a  
21 sign --

22 MS. STALEY: -- Maine Avenue.

1 MEMBER SHORT: -- put up to guide them  
2 up.

3 MS. STALEY: Yes, yes, absolutely.

4 MEMBER SHORT: And some of your  
5 security to keep it flowing?

6 MS. STALEY: Yes, yes. So we are  
7 definitely, you know, encouraging the public to  
8 access this event in different ways than we have  
9 in the past and that's also why we are shifting  
10 the event site down to accommodate the crowds.  
11 You know, I think if we had attempted to keep  
12 everything up by the traditional footprint, I  
13 think it would be a dangerous situation. So  
14 again, why we have --

15 MEMBER SHORT: We have a couple of  
16 weeks.

17 MS. STALEY: -- reached out to the  
18 Park Service.

19 MEMBER SHORT: We only have a couple  
20 of weeks before your event, correct?

21 MS. STALEY: Yes.

22 MEMBER SHORT: You better get a

1 commitment from MPD or will you be able to get  
2 one?

3 MS. STALEY: It's all related to  
4 scheduling. I mean, I would like to say at some  
5 point this week, you know, but I don't -- without  
6 having a firm appointment on the calendar, you  
7 know --

8 MEMBER SHORT: I would suggest  
9 strongly that you do that.

10 MS. STALEY: Yes.

11 MEMBER SHORT: I, as a Board Member,  
12 feel a little uncomfortable voting until we find  
13 out. That's just my personal vote. We can make  
14 sure this event goes very smoothly and with the  
15 construction and all of the other challenges.

16 MS. STALEY: Yes, yes. As I said, we  
17 did have a preliminary meeting with them several  
18 months ago, so it's not like we are going to them  
19 for the first time. They are very familiar with  
20 the event and we did alert them of some of the  
21 changes that we are planning on, you know, based  
22 on the construction.

1           And Harbor Patrol, you know, I was  
2           just out on the street with them earlier this  
3           week, so, you know, as I said, we are not  
4           planning on any reduction in services. If  
5           anything, there is going to be an increase in  
6           services from MPD.

7           MEMBER SHORT: Okay. Thank you.

8           CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr. Alberti?

9           MEMBER ALBERTI: Good morning. Thank  
10          you for coming. So just I assume you are working  
11          with the Mayor's Task Force for Special Events?

12          MS. STALEY: We are working with the  
13          Special Events Office, yes.

14          MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Great. So  
15          now, I sort of want to understand the flow how --  
16          what is the flow into and out of the beer garden  
17          and that area. So people can access the rest of  
18          the festival without going here, but they -- most  
19          in this area that you have shown as here, they  
20          sort of have to leave through one of the exits to  
21          go to the rest of the festival. Is that what the  
22          deal is, so you can monitor that that alcohol is

1 staying in that area?

2 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So if I see a  
4 performance entrance, I see a stage entrance, a  
5 Water Street entrance, a sea wall entrance and  
6 then the Gangplank. Is that all of the entrances  
7 and exits?

8 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

9 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So where will  
10 people be exiting from there?

11 MS. IVERSEN: Actually, there is no  
12 one point of exit through to allow/to accommodate  
13 for people who are coming. Say for example, if  
14 they Metro to L'Enfant Plaza and they walk down  
15 7th Street to enter into the event, they could  
16 come from that entrance point that's closest to  
17 the stage.

18 If they come from the Southwest  
19 Waterfront Metro Station and utilize the 4th  
20 Street entrance, that also we're speaking of and  
21 they start to progress north, they might come  
22 along in from the sea wall entrance or from the

1 Water Street entrance.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So okay.

3 MS. IVERSEN: And then with --

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: My real -- let me  
5 interrupt because I think you're not --

6 MS. IVERSEN: Go ahead.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- understanding my  
8 real question and I wasn't clear. I'm sorry.

9 MS. IVERSEN: That's okay.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: So people are going  
11 to be coming, entering and exiting the same  
12 access points?

13 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. The sea wall  
15 entrance, the people who come in from the sea  
16 wall entrance, will they be able to exit there?

17 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

18 MS. STALEY: Yes.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: The same for the  
20 stage and the Water Street and the Gangplank?  
21 What about the Gangplank, both directions?

22 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

1 MS. STALEY: Yes.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So when -- so  
3 before I buy a beer, what happens?

4 MS. IVERSEN: They enter that area.  
5 There will be the security guards who do quick  
6 checks on baggage to make sure that nothing is  
7 entering that area --

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes.

9 MS. IVERSEN: -- that shouldn't be.  
10 And then you are able to say if you're not  
11 interested in a beer, you're able to go to the  
12 stage or go to the sponsor activation tents that  
13 are within that space.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So if I want  
15 to buy a beer, what do I do?

16 MS. IVERSEN: Go to the ID check tents  
17 where there is the TIPS trained members who are  
18 going to be checking for IDs. And then also at  
19 that same point is where you would purchase a  
20 beer ticket. So that way there is no necessary  
21 cash transaction at the point of service of the  
22 beer. It's a ticket system.

1           And then also once you redeem your  
2 ticket, that's where also there is ABRA-licensed  
3 as well as TIPS trained Professional Services.  
4 Pro Bar Services is a company that we are working  
5 with. All of the servers are licensed, so they  
6 are monitoring distribution of the beer.

7           MEMBER ALBERTI: So I have to have an  
8 ID to get -- so I get checked and I have to have  
9 an ID to get a ticket?

10          MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

11          MEMBER ALBERTI: Maybe I missed --  
12 wasn't listening closely. So am I stamped or--

13          MS. IVERSEN: Oh, you get a wristband.

14          MEMBER ALBERTI: You get a wristband?

15          MS. IVERSEN: After your ID check.

16          MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And then your  
17 expectation is that you are not going to be able  
18 to be served a beer or have a beer in your hand  
19 if you have a wristband? Unless you have a  
20 wristband on?

21          MS. IVERSEN: Unless you have a  
22 wristband and a ticket and the servers there they

1 also have the discretion to ask to do a  
2 secondary --

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So the beer,  
4 what are the beer containers going to look like?

5 MS. IVERSEN: It's a beer truck, so  
6 everything -- there are kegs within the beer  
7 truck, so everything is in plastic cups.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: How are they labeled?  
9 How do I know someone has got a beer and not a  
10 soda?

11 MS. IVERSEN: Sure. They are --

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: How do I distinguish  
13 between beverages?

14 MS. IVERSEN: -- from the provider.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: Pardon?

16 MS. IVERSEN: From the provider.

17 Kirin Beer is the beer that does get served at  
18 site and they provide us clear Kirin-branded  
19 plastic cups.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And what other  
21 beverages will be served and how will they be  
22 served?

1 MS. IVERSEN: What was that one again?

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: What other beverage--  
3 how would the other beverages be served?

4 MS. IVERSEN: Soda and water comes in  
5 bottles and then the food trucks, if they are  
6 also selling any soda or water, it's their  
7 discretion of whatever they are serving. They  
8 work with another -- other Coke providers. Say  
9 they work with Pepsi, we work with Coke, it will  
10 come in their packaging.

11 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. Here is  
12 the problem I have. How many people are you  
13 going to have in this area? How many people can  
14 you accommodate in this area?

15 MS. IVERSEN: We estimate  
16 approximately 1,000 comfortably.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. On a nice  
18 day it gets pretty crowded down there. I have  
19 been down there. I have seen these festivals.  
20 All right? People are having a good time,  
21 listening to the music. All right.

22 And I'm a suspicious person. Well, we

1 all are. Many of us on this Board are suspicious  
2 because we see people trying to game the system  
3 all the time.

4 And I'm worried about people getting  
5 served a beer and then passing it off to somebody  
6 and just pouring it into the Pepsi cup and then  
7 the guy going back and getting another beer, so  
8 that their underage friend can drink at the  
9 festival. How can we prevent that?

10 MS. STALEY: We will have people  
11 roaming in the area specifically looking at  
12 people's wrists to see, you know, is everybody  
13 that has a beverage in their hand, do they have a  
14 wristband on? So that's one, you know, primary  
15 method.

16 We also think that, you know, in the  
17 past we have had volunteers actually serving the  
18 beer. This year we are working with a company  
19 that is all licensed bartenders and we're hoping  
20 that that is an additional measure that  
21 strengthens our overall operation.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

1 MS. IVERSEN: I think what also helps  
2 minimize that is within direct access of the area  
3 where beverage or beer service occurs, there is  
4 one food vendor. We could work closely with him  
5 to monitor what soda he is selling and what  
6 container it is in.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

8 MS. IVERSEN: And then with the  
9 security points outside this fenced area to  
10 access the rest of the event, definitely an  
11 emphasis with that security agent to ensure that  
12 no beverage exits that area.

13 MEMBER ALBERTI: I guess my preference  
14 would be that the food vendors serve beverages in  
15 the commercial container.

16 MS. IVERSEN: Yes, sure.

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: Either a can or a  
18 bottle.

19 MS. IVERSEN: Definitely.

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: So that there is no  
21 ambiguity of who is drinking what.

22 MS. IVERSEN: Yes, right.

1 MS. STALEY: From past recollection,  
2 I believe that is what is done.

3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

4 MS. STALEY: I don't think he is  
5 serving any --

6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Got it.

7 MS. STALEY: -- in a cup.

8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Okay. That is  
9 good news.

10 MS. STALEY: We will double check  
11 that.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm a little  
13 concerned, how many people are you going to have  
14 at each entrance?

15 MS. IVERSEN: For security personnel?  
16 At least one. Where the stairs are that walk --  
17 go -- enter into the Gangplank parking lot, there  
18 is two. One at the top and one at the bottom.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: So one person is  
20 going to be able to watch people coming and  
21 going?

22 MS. STALEY: Plus volunteers.

1 MS. IVERSEN: There is also  
2 volunteers. So each of them will have at least  
3 two positioned with them to be --

4 MS. STALEY: Yes.

5 MS. IVERSEN: -- a second and third  
6 set of eyes.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you will  
8 have at least two volunteers besides the security  
9 person at each entrance for people coming and  
10 going?

11 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: Because --

13 MS. STALEY: In addition --

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- it gets pretty  
15 busy, you know, during -- the height of the event  
16 will get pretty busy with people flowing in and  
17 out of there.

18 MS. STALEY: Yes.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: So --

20 MS. STALEY: In addition, it's our  
21 intention not to have anybody kind of just  
22 hanging on that stairwell. It's really meant up

1 and down, so we are hoping that that again also  
2 makes it very clear who is entering and who is  
3 exiting.

4 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. All right.  
5 All right. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.  
7 Rodriguez?

8 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Good morning.

9 MS. STALEY: Good morning.

10 MS. IVERSEN: Good morning.

11 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: It's very  
12 refreshing to see young bright enthusiastic  
13 people before our Board. We're happy to have you  
14 here.

15 I have one light question for you. On  
16 page 5 of your application, that volunteer  
17 drinking, I'm pretty interested the way it's  
18 written. Volunteer drinking. But my question is  
19 it says "No beer garden volunteer will be allowed  
20 to drink alcohol prior to or during their shift."  
21 I can understand where you can verify if they are  
22 drinking during their shift. How would you be

1 able to know if they had been drinking before  
2 their shift?

3 MS. STALEY: Service won't be starting  
4 prior --

5 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: It's an --

6 MS. STALEY: -- but, you know, we are  
7 working with trusted volunteers.

8 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right. I  
9 understand, you know.

10 MS. STALEY: I'm hoping we don't --  
11 they are pretty well --

12 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Unless they are  
13 crawling in, right?

14 MS. STALEY: Yes.

15 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

16 MS. STALEY: And all of the volunteers  
17 that are doing the ticket sales and ID checks,  
18 there is TIPS training. We have been working  
19 with Mr. Jeff Jackson.

20 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right.

21 MS. STALEY: With Alcohol Beverage,  
22 you know, so that also is a change from last

1 year.

2 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So you will be  
3 alert to that?

4 MS. STALEY: Yes. From what I  
5 understand, there has been a very extensive  
6 training, so I think --

7 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right, yes.

8 MS. STALEY: -- you know, we are  
9 feeling very confident in what our volunteers  
10 know and how seriously they need to take their  
11 positions at this event.

12 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. STALEY: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Where do  
15 volunteers come from? Who volunteers for these  
16 festivals?

17 MS. STALEY: General public. It could  
18 be corporate volunteers. You know, we are very  
19 lucky that we have many returning volunteers from  
20 year to year and a really strong commitment to  
21 the festival. So again, most of the people that  
22 are volunteering in the beer garden area

1 specifically we have hand-picked as people that  
2 we know. We are also very lucky that one year we  
3 have -- this year we have a gentleman who has  
4 worked the Sakura Matsuri Beer Garden before, so  
5 we are excited to bring him into the fold in  
6 terms of helping us with our operation.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I just  
8 want to follow-up on the layout here. So the  
9 beer garden which is what this Board is mainly  
10 looking at.

11 MS. STALEY: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That is under our  
13 jurisdiction. In the area where the beer garden  
14 is or what you call the beer garden, that there  
15 is a stage, right?

16 MS. STALEY: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is that the only  
18 area where there is a stage?

19 MS. STALEY: There are three stages  
20 throughout the event site.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

22 MS. STALEY: So there is one in the

1 Gangplank Marina parking lot that is totally open  
2 for people to kind of come and go and no  
3 alcoholic beverages there. And then further down  
4 the waterfront in the Waterfront Park that is  
5 National Park Service property, there is an  
6 additional family stage.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. What  
8 happens on this stage?

9 MS. STALEY: It's bands, large bands,  
10 so we have a variety of music.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And I just  
12 wanted to get an idea of who might be in here.  
13 There are going to be people in here, other than  
14 people who are drinking alcohol, right?

15 MS. STALEY: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So they are going  
17 to come in not necessarily for the alcohol, they  
18 may come in for the band?

19 MS. STALEY: Correct.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And then  
21 there is a food truck?

22 MS. IVERSEN: There is an existing

1 food vendor, King Ribs, that is within the  
2 footprint of the alcohol service area. The food  
3 trucks are in the adjacent parking lot.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, they are not  
5 in the beer garden?

6 MS. IVERSEN: No.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, but they can  
8 bring the food in?

9 MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

11 MS. STALEY: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And when do they  
13 get -- if you are going to have a beer, when do  
14 you get your wristband?

15 MS. STALEY: Any time once the event  
16 starts, you can go and --

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No. I mean maybe  
18 where. I mean, when you enter or when you go  
19 into get your ID checked or when?

20 MS. IVERSEN: When you get your ID  
21 checked, yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So

1 everybody else can just flow in. If you are not  
2 interested -- you are not stopped at the  
3 entrance?

4 MS. STALEY: Yes, which is the model  
5 we have used for the last several years, even  
6 prior to us permitting the event.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And do you  
8 get families in this area?

9 MS. STALEY: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

11 MS. STALEY: Yes, people of all ages  
12 come to this event, very family-friendly.

13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And in this beer  
14 garden area because of the other things going on,  
15 you get a variety of ages?

16 MS. STALEY: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

18 MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, one quick  
19 question.

20 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr. Alberti.

21 MEMBER ALBERTI: I forgot to ask you.  
22 How many volunteers will be monitoring that area,

1 you know, floating through the area, so to speak,  
2 and monitoring it? I'm assuming that you have  
3 some people sort of monitoring.

4 MS. STALEY: Yes. I'm trying to do  
5 the math. Typically, we allocate the positions a  
6 little bit differently than your question was  
7 asked.

8 MS. IVERSEN: Well, if we talk about  
9 the two, three -- the two additional volunteers  
10 for each security agent and we talked about the  
11 points of entry, so there is five points of entry  
12 to attend there plus the roving that we have.

13 MS. STALEY: And then --

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: So actually --

15 MS. STALEY: -- we have at the ID  
16 check --

17 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- including the  
18 roaming, I want to know how many are committed to  
19 the roving throughout the festival, whose job, I  
20 assume, will be just sort of to monitor the crowd  
21 to make sure that there is no underage drinking.

22 MS. STALEY: Yes.

1                   MEMBER ALBERTI: So how many people  
2 will that be?

3                   MS. STALEY: In addition, those rovers  
4 will be swapping out for the ID check people,  
5 because obviously we are concerned about eye  
6 strain.

7                   MEMBER ALBERTI: So how many total?

8                   MS. STALEY: Yes. So we will have  
9 four within the -- four per ID check tent. And  
10 then an additional, I think it was, four to eight  
11 roving, so that they can switch off.

12                  MS. IVERSEN: Eight roving at any one  
13 point in time.

14                  MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Yes, that  
15 would be best because that crowd is going to be--

16                  MS. IVERSEN: Yes.

17                  MEMBER ALBERTI: -- big. Thank you.  
18 I have no further questions. Thank you.

19                  CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. Mr. Short?

20                  MEMBER SHORT: How would the -- how  
21 will your volunteers be identified?

22                  MS. IVERSEN: They all wear green long

1 sleeved shirts that have the National Cherry  
2 Blossom Festival logo on the front pocket and the  
3 words volunteer on the back.

4 MEMBER SHORT: Great.

5 MS. IVERSEN: In white lettering.

6 MS. STALEY: In addition, we will have  
7 our lead ID checkers wearing beads, so that we  
8 can more quickly identify them. Again, we know  
9 many of them, so we know their faces, but just,  
10 you know, for others that maybe aren't familiar  
11 with each other, it's a secondary identification  
12 method.

13 MEMBER SHORT: Thank you. Thank you,  
14 Madam Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I have one  
16 more question and then I'll go to Mr. Suero.  
17 Would you say that the construction this year  
18 impacts the planning of the beer garden in  
19 particular in any way or is it mainly just  
20 affecting the festival as a whole?

21 MS. STALEY: I would say the festival  
22 as a whole, yes. Retaining a lot of the same

1 measures that we have in the past in terms of  
2 running the beer garden. And as I said if  
3 anything, I almost feel better about how we are  
4 running it this year as opposed to previous years  
5 with incorporating Pro Bar Services as a  
6 professional beer service entity.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And as far as the  
8 festival as a whole, that's something you have  
9 been working with the Mayor's Task Force on?

10 MS. STALEY: With the Special Events  
11 Office.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

13 MS. STALEY: It's a little bit  
14 different because of the status of the land.  
15 There is a special events designation and it is  
16 private property, so it's a little different than  
17 some of the other major events you might be  
18 seeing.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

20 MS. STALEY: But yes, Laverne Stewart  
21 and I have talked very frequently.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Great. Okay.

1 Mr. Suero?

2 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Thank you. Good  
3 morning.

4 MS. STALEY: Good morning.

5 MS. IVERSEN: Good morning.

6 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: I saw copies of  
7 two IDs, ABC Manager IDs here. Is that the only  
8 two you will have working that day or you will  
9 have more than that?

10 MS. STALEY: I believe Pro Bar  
11 Services will have additional staff members that  
12 will have that, but everybody is a licensed  
13 manager.

14 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Also in the  
15 amount of security personnel, is 11 your maximum?

16 MS. STALEY: No.

17 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: What is your  
18 maximum number?

19 MS. STALEY: It's minimum. It's  
20 minimum. The maximum --

21 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: And can you  
22 change that number, if you need to?

1 MS. STALEY: Yes, absolutely, we can  
2 change the number if we need to. I mean, we want  
3 to make sure that the event is safe and, you  
4 know, that we are managing the crowds and,  
5 obviously, addressing some of the concerns that  
6 have been raised today.

7 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Are the security  
8 staff uniformed?

9 MS. STALEY: Yes, they will be.

10 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: All of them?

11 MS. STALEY: Yes, yes. CSC is our  
12 event service. They will be in their traditional  
13 yellow and black.

14 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Do you know if  
15 that security force has worked in the District  
16 before?

17 MS. STALEY: Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. Are they  
19 equipped with two-way radio communications?

20 MS. STALEY: Yes.

21 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: They are. You  
22 have -- I heard a question from one of our Board

1 Members. You do not have -- have you heard yet  
2 from MPD as to how many officers are going to be  
3 there?

4 MS. STALEY: No. In the past it has  
5 there has been five to six officers, which has  
6 been what they have allocated, you know, every  
7 year, so we are planning that as the minimum.  
8 And again, you know, we are happy to -- we will  
9 be following their lead in terms of those final  
10 numbers.

11 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: What about  
12 commitment from the National Park Police?

13 MS. STALEY: It will be about five to  
14 six. We have a secondary --

15 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Is that  
16 commitment from them?

17 MS. STALEY: We have a secondary  
18 meeting with them as well. So we have --

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: With whom?

20 MS. STALEY: -- a secondary meeting  
21 and a secondary meeting tomorrow.

22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Suero, could

1 you repeat with whom you were just talking about?

2 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Oh, I asked about  
3 if they had a commitment with the United States  
4 Park Police.

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, Park Police.  
6 Thank you.

7 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Also, will any of  
8 your staff or security staff be using any ID  
9 checking scan devices of any kind? Do you know?  
10 Is this all just their looking?

11 MS. STALEY: Just looking.

12 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Just looking.  
13 And some of these folks have been trained to --

14 MS. STALEY: Oh, yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: -- know what they  
16 are looking for?

17 MS. STALEY: Everyone is TIPS trained,  
18 yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. Because of  
20 where it is, I'm sure you are aware that this  
21 could be a considerable amount of people if the  
22 weather --

1 MS. STALEY: Yes.

2 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's what they are  
3 hoping for.

4 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Yes.

5 MS. STALEY: The blessing is a curse.

6 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: And you are  
7 controlling the points where people can come in  
8 and out once they have alcohol, correct?

9 MS. STALEY: Absolutely.

10 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: You have enough  
11 people to --

12 MS. STALEY: Yes.

13 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: -- if the crowd  
14 gets crazy, will you actually be able to monitor  
15 folks who have already obtained alcohol and now  
16 they decide they want to walk around somewhere  
17 else other than those specific areas?

18 MS. STALEY: Yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR SUERO: Okay. That's all  
20 I have. Thanks.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any other  
22 questions? Do you all have any other questions

1 or any other comments?

2 MS. STALEY: Once we receive that  
3 commitment from MPD, do you just want us to  
4 submit it to your office in care of the Board?

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. Okay.  
6 Okay. So just to confirm, you have stated that  
7 you will submit further information from MPD  
8 after you meet with them with respect to the  
9 number of personnel they will be providing to  
10 ABRA and the ABC Board?

11 MS. STALEY: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

13 MEMBER SHORT: And also the Park  
14 Police.

15 MS. STALEY: Yes.

16 MEMBER ALBERTI: So can we sign this  
17 contingent upon that?

18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes. So what I  
19 want to say is based on what we have heard in  
20 that representation, an expectation that that  
21 will be coming in, I'm prepared to move to  
22 approve it in that all the other elements are in

1 place, as far as I can see.

2 So therefore, I would move approval of  
3 this application.

4 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Contingent?

5 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Second?

6 MEMBER SHORT: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: What did you say?

8 Okay.

9 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Contingent upon.

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And we will  
11 expect that further information to come in when?  
12 Next week?

13 MS. STALEY: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

15 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All right.

17 So do I have a second?

18 MEMBER SHORT: Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Any comments?

20 MEMBER ALBERTI: No. I'm just going  
21 to say communicate with Investigator Suero and  
22 you can give him the additional information and

1 he will make sure he gets it to us.

2 MS. STALEY: Okay.

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Then there  
4 is a motion that has been seconded.

5 All those in favor say aye.

6 ALL: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those  
8 opposed? All those abstaining? Okay. The  
9 motion passes 5-0-0.

10 MS. STALEY: All right. Thank you so  
11 much.

12 MEMBER ALBERTI: In the past, I always  
13 used the 4th Street entrance because there was  
14 nobody down there and I could watch the fireworks  
15 without a crowd. You just ruined it for me.

16 (Laughter)

17 MS. IVERSEN: It's like don't tell  
18 anybody the Cherry Blossoms are up here.

19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Right.

20 MS. IVERSEN: Thank you. Thank you so  
21 much.

22 MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.

1                   CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So but you are  
2 going to wait for the paperwork? Okay. Great.  
3 Thank you. We look forward to --

4                   MS. STALEY: Thank you.

5                   (Whereupon, the Fact-Finding Hearing  
6 in the above-entitled matter was concluded at  
7 10:32 a.m.)

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